

AIRLINE TICKET/BOARDING PASS/IDENTIFICATION ORGANIZER AND METHOD FOR USE THEREOF

Related Applications

5 This application claims priority from United States Provisional Patent Application No.: 60/448,333, filed February 19, 2003 and United States Provisional Patent Application No.: 60/453,109, filed March 7, 2003, which applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Technical Field of the Invention

10 This invention pertains generally to airline travel, and more particularly to organizing and carrying airline tickets, boarding passes and identification.

Background of the Invention

15 Airline security has been tightened dramatically in response to terrorist activity in the United States and elsewhere. As a result, it is now necessary for the average traveler to present tickets and/or boarding passes and a picture identification at multiple checkpoints. This requirement would present relatively little difficulty if that were all the traveler had to worry about. In addition, however, most travelers
20 have their hands full with luggage or other items, making it particularly cumbersome to present tickets and/or boarding passes and ID while lugging the rest of their gear. The result is a lot of fumbling around for passengers and delays due to passengers hunting or digging around in pockets and purses for the required tickets and/or boarding passes and identification.

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Summary

 The present invention includes an organizer, comprising a main body comprising a first compartment and a second compartment, wherein the first compartment is sized to receive an airline ticket or boarding pass and the second
30 compartment is sized to receive an identification card, the first compartment and

second compartment each having a transparent window for displaying indicia on the airline ticket or boarding pass and identification card.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a top plan view of one embodiment of the organizer of the present invention, without identification information.

- 5 Figure 2 is a top plan front view of the organizer of Figure 1, containing a boarding pass and, having identification information concealed by a flap.

- Figure 3 is a top plan front view of the organizer of Figure 1, containing the boarding pass of Figure 2, wherein the flap is in a position that reveals identification
10 information.

Figure 4 is a top plant front view of an organizer, containing a boarding pass and a driver's license.

- 15 Figure 5 is a top plant view of an organizer, containing a boarding pass and a driver's license, in an open position.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of the organizer of Figure 5, in a closed position.

- 20 Figure 7 is a flow chart of a method of using a holder.

Figure 8 is a flow chart of a method of using a holder.

Detailed Description of the Invention

- 25 Referring now to Figure 1, there is illustrated an organizer 10 according to a first embodiment of the invention. Organizer 10 includes a first portion 12 with one or more compartments 14 used to hold a traveler's identification 16 and airline tickets and/or boarding passes 18. According to embodiment 10, a first pocket or compartment 14a is provided with a transparent wall 14a-1 and is sized to hold a
30 driver's license or equivalent sized identification card. Compartment 14a is thus approximately 84 millimeters in length and 53 millimeters wide. A flap 14a-2 is

provided to cover the transparent wall 14a-1 so that any identification held in the compartment 14a is kept private until the flap is lifted. The flap is optionally secured to the wall 14a-1 with a fastener such as Velcro or a snap or other fastening mechanism known to those skilled in the art. In the embodiment shown, the

5 compartment 14a is accessible from a slit or opening 14a-3 in the top or side of the compartment, which allows the passenger to insert and remove the identification and also allows security personnel to remove the identification easily for closer inspection. The opening 14a-3 may be sealed shut with a Velcro system or with a zipper or snap system or any other suitable system. In one embodiment, the zipper

10 or snap is made of a non-metallic material.

Organizer 10 further includes a pocket or compartment 14b that is sized to hold an airline ticket or boarding pass, and accordingly, in one embodiment, has a length of about 23 mm and a width of about 84 mm. Compartment 14b is constructed to allow the ticket or boarding pass to be inserted in the compartment

15 14b from a top opening 14b-1, so it does not fall out easily but also so it can be readily retrieved by the passenger or someone at a security check point or upon boarding of the plane. The compartment 14b is secured in a manner that prevents the ticket or boarding pass to fall out of the compartment. A securing mechanism such as Velcro, or a zipper is usable to secure the compartment 14b. According to

20 another embodiment, a further pocket or slot is provided into which a torn off boarding pass stub can be inserted.

In another organizer embodiment, illustrated at 20 in Figure 5, the organizer

20 includes a ticket/boarding pass compartment 22 and a picture identification compartment, such as a driver's license compartment 24. The compartment 24 for picture identification is obscured by folding the compartment 24 onto the

25 compartment 22, as shown in Figure 6. The compartment 24 is secured to the compartment 22 by a conventional mechanism such as Velcro and one or more snaps.

In one embodiment, the organizer further includes a strap or string that

30 enables a user the put the organizer with the strap or string around his or her neck.

Figure 7 is an exemplary embodiment of a method 700 for utilizing a holder for a ticket and identification information. In such an embodiment, the method includes distributing 710 to passengers at an airport a holder for ticket and identification information, wherein a necklace member is used by a passenger to
5 carry the holder around their neck. Method 700 further includes a passenger carrying 720 the holder in the airport using the necklace around their neck and a passenger using 730 the holder to carry an airline ticket and identification while passing through security screening or while boarding an airplane. In one such embodiment of method 700, distributing 710 includes giving the holder away as a
10 promotion. Another such embodiment of method 700 includes distributing 710 includes selling the holder to passengers.

Some further embodiments of method 700 include a passenger using the holder to provide airport personnel access to the passenger's ticket and identification. One such embodiment is configured to allow airport personnel to
15 readily remove one or both of a passenger's ticket and identification for inspection.

In another exemplary embodiment of method 700 using 730 the holder to carry an airline ticket and identification while passing through security screening includes configuring the holder to allow airport personnel to view a passenger ticket and/or a passenger identification while the ticket and identification are in the holder.
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Some embodiments of method 400 include constructing a holder for performing the method wherein the holder and necklace are constructed of substantially non-metallic materials so as to not trigger an alarm in an airport security screening system. In some such embodiments of method 700, the holder is disposable after one or more uses.
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Another embodiment of method 700 includes distributing 710 a holder having information concerning airline security or airport security information embossed thereon. In some such embodiments, the information concerning airline security or airport security comprises rules or procedures.

Yet another embodiment of method 700, wherein distributing 710 a holder
30 includes providing the passenger the holder and necklace separately with the necklace fastened to the holder after the passenger takes the holder. Other

embodiments include the necklace already attached to the holder. Some such
embodiments include distributing 710 a necklace with advertising information on
the necklace. Some other embodiments include distributing the holder with airline
information or advertising material on or in the holder. In some such embodiments,
5 the airline information includes an airline logo or name.

As shown in method 800 in figure 8, another embodiment includes
manufacturing 810 a plurality of holders for an airline ticket and passenger
identification, wherein the holders include information pertaining to an airline
disposed thereon, and providing 820 the holders to the airline, wherein the holder is
10 designed at least in part to be carried by an airline passenger using a necklace
member.

It is to be understood that the above description is intended to be illustrative,
and not restrictive. Many other embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the
art upon reviewing the above description. The scope of embodiments of the
15 invention should, therefore, be determined with reference to the appended claims,
along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.